

Francis-Bird encourages women to finish college



"Never before has a person been famous as two people." Florence Bird (Anne Francis), freelance journalist, discussed the cry of women to get what they want at a lecture at UNB on Wednesday.

By KATHY WESTMAN
News Editor

"The more a woman gives to herself the more she has to give to her family."

Florence Bird (Anne Francis) an Ottawa-based freelance journalist, lecturer and broadcaster for both the French and English Canadian Broadcasting Corporation networks gave a lecture at the University of New Brunswick this past Wednesday.

Gillian Thompson the resident fellow at the women's residence hosted Mrs. Bird and introduced Judge Doris Ogilvie who in turn introduced Mrs. Bird and gave a short biography of her. By way of introduction she said never before has a person "been famous as two people."

Francis-Bird started her lecture by a story showing how women had to literally cry to get what they wanted. "For centuries women had to accept humiliation before they could get the recognition they desired." She told the story of two Maritime women who pioneered the cause. Mount Allison, she said, was the first Canadian University to grant a woman a BA degree.

She stressed the need for women to complete their university education. Too many women drop out after a year or two and they will regret it later she said, I know I'm one of them. Francis-Bird said

she knows the feeling of frustration to have started something and not to have finished it. She said right now that the piece of paper that she missed getting would have enabled her right now to attend and do post graduate work at an International College.

She encouraged more women to go on and do post-graduate work. Women are not taking advantage of the education facilities available to them, she said, when this happens both the women and the country suffer.

We have come a long way since the days when we were a part of a man's possessions, when there was a lack of job opportunities and a woman had to be supported by either a husband or her father, or work in a factory to support herself if she had no one else to do so. These women were condemned to a parasitic existence, they were reduced to dabbling in water colors, visiting their friends, and sitting around looking beautiful.

One out of every three people who works is a woman. Francis-Bird feels that women are a satellite sex, that is they are clerical workers (secretaries) not managers, waitresses not cooks, nurses but not doctors. Women are still under paid even though we have equal rights legislation. There is also a discrimination towards women getting promo-

tions. There is no longer an economic need to marry. There are a lot of options opened to women -- whether or not they get married, have a career, have children or some combination of all three. Francis-Bird said that "men also marry and have children and still have their career" -- why can't a woman do the same thing? She said that there were definitely not enough day care centres to meet the growing needs of our society. She classed these as an "absolute necessity". According to Francis-Bird a woman shouldn't feel guilty about not contributing a child to this already over populated world we live in. She felt we need more family planning centres and that the abortion laws should be changed so that a woman is not forced to have a child she doesn't want and can't afford to care for.

Most girls though are still being conditioned much like their grandmothers were, into thinking that marriage is the ultimate goal in a woman's life. She said, "This really burns me up." She added that women in North America are not a numerical minority but that they are treated as such. Women according to her are still victims of inherited myths, laws, and traditions.

"Education is more than book learning -- it is the development of the individual so that she can choose a worthwhile life pattern and make a real contribution to our community and nation."

A lot of damage is done in childhood socialization. Francis-Bird felt that mothers were more permissive with their sons by saying "boys will be boys" every time the boys acted up but required their daughters to be more passive and restrained.

Francis-Bird said a woman is still made to feel like a failure if she doesn't marry. Women frequently conceal their brains because they are afraid of not getting a date. "Girls lack the motivation for getting a higher education." Most women feel they will be fill in workers, that is they'll work until they get pregnant or until the mortgage is paid off or their husband has finished his education and gotten a higher degree. Francis-Bird feels that the world

has changed and that to change it more we must bring pressure to bear on the school boards to use non-sexist textbooks and on guidance counsellors so that they don't discourage our females from having careers.

She felt it important that children be made to understand that "marriage is a partnership between two equals", and that the home is as important to the man as the work world is to the woman. She felt that "women never come into their own until they believe in themselves."

Francis-Bird was thanked by Mary Ella Milham, who in a faculty of 500 at UNB is the only female that is a full professor.

A question period followed and the thing that came out as the

strongest point is that in research studies done in other countries children were found to develop better with more than one cherishing adult caring for them. If a family relationship is good then the children have a good chance of developing normally whether the wife works or not. If a woman is frustrated then the children will only suffer. People must realize that 'Mom' is not the only one who can properly care for a child. Francis-Bird felt that it was quite acceptable to have a mother working if she was available in the evening when her children needed her. She also made the statement that the children need a father just as badly as they need a mother and that the father should share equally in the caring of the child.



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Nov. 7, 8, 9

8:00 P.M.

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Roast Beef Dinner \$1.50

Clams & Chips \$1.50

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Every Wednesday Corn Beef & Cabbage

Higgins faces students continued

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wanted it there. He said he was against a riverside drive and in its place he would prefer having a riverside park.

A question was then raised about the conference held between the student presidents and Mr. Higgins as well as other leaders of the various parties. Higgins said he was impressed with the student group, and that he was as concerned about the needy student as they were. The wording of the platform statement was suggested by the students. The statement from the platform is as follows: "Student aid will be reconstituted in consultation with student representatives for loans, bursaries, and repayment provisions." He felt that the raising of the loans from \$800 to \$1100 was bad for the needy student. The committee that is to be set up with the student presidents will be headed by a minister as a liaison between the committee and the

government.

Next Higgins was asked for his opinion on Bill 22. He feels that Hatfield's approach toward the issue was politically polarizing and divisive and thinks that the offending sections could be revised.

He then commented on the nuclear power situation chosen by the Federal government, saying that he was not satisfied with reports that we needed the power.

The subject of mental health rehabilitation programs was brought up. Higgins said he felt that young people from 6-17 should be given equal treatment as others in normal schools.

The next question was directed to Dan Hurley concerning rent rebates. Last year everyone, no matter whether they were living in a room, a house or an apartment except those students living in university residence, received a \$30 rent rebate. Hurley said if the

input from the students in residences indicated that this was what they wanted, too, then there was a high probability that this is what they would get. One thing that happened as a result of this was that the landlords raised rents to compensate for the \$30 rent rebate which did not help matters in the least. Hurley said he would not tolerate such things because they were defeating the purpose.

Higgins added that the laws presently were slanted towards the landlords and that they should be changed.

The topic then changed to one of education questioning Higgins as to whether the liberal party was in favor of keeping music, art and physical education in the schools in the smaller towns that presently can't afford it. Higgins said he was very much in favor of this and that it was this type of enrichment and opportunities program that was needed in our schools.

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